

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2012

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

It has come to our attention that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a request from the City of Baton Rouge, the New Orleans Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the State of Louisiana to improve interoperability among first responders by granting them a waiver to deploy a broadband network on public safety spectrum in the 700 MHz band.

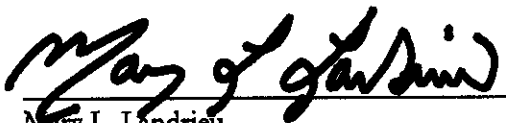
As Representatives of one of the states most vulnerable to large disasters, both natural (Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav) and manmade (the Deepwater Horizon oil spill), we are acutely aware that our constituents need a robust, interoperable wireless broadband network to ensure that first responders can communicate during critical emergencies. Louisiana's unique waterways also make it home to the largest port infrastructure in the (western hemisphere), dozens of offshore oil rigs, refineries, and petrochemical plants, thereby making it a hub of critical infrastructure and national commerce. It is evident that Louisiana plays a vital role in the flow of commerce and that its residents are extremely vulnerable to hurricanes, flooding along the Mississippi River and manmade disasters. Thus, building an interoperable public safety broadband network now is imperative.

The FCC need only look to Hurricane Katrina, the deadliest and most destructive hurricane to hit the United States in 2005. The destruction left in Katrina's wake increased dramatically due to communications failures. First responders were unable to coordinate search and rescue operations efficiently and effectively without communications to guide them to the locations requesting assistance. Supplies and assistance from other states could not be delivered in a timely manner due to lack of communications and the lack of interoperability of communications equipment compounded these problems. Seven years later, Baton Rouge, New Orleans and the State of Louisiana still lack an interoperable broadband network. As our state braces for yet another hurricane season, the FCC should equip Louisiana's first responders with the ability to deploy a wireless broadband network to ensure public safety communications in times of crisis. All three jurisdictions have demonstrated their commitment to the project. The Governor's office is coordinating the project and deploying the network core. Also, both the City of Baton Rouge and New Orleans UASI are committing funding for sites and providing the necessary technical expertise.

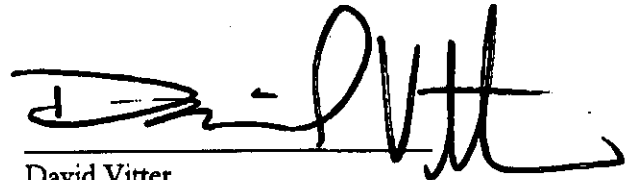
For the health and safety of Louisiana residents and the nation's key critical infrastructure, we strongly support the waiver requested by the City of Baton Rouge, the New Orleans UASI and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

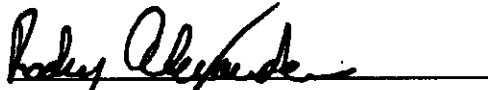
Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator



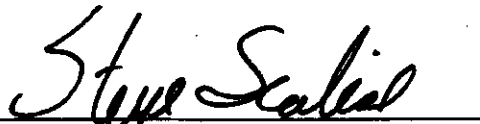
David Vitter
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Rodney Alexander
U.S. House of Representatives



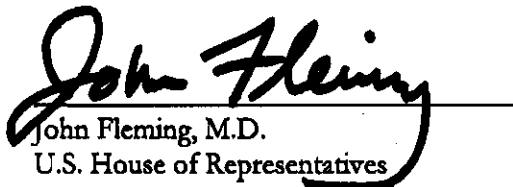
Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives



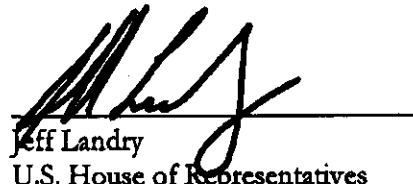
Steve Scalise
U.S. House of Representatives



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives



John Fleming, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives



Jeff Landry
U.S. House of Representatives



Cedric Richmond
U.S. House of Representatives

**The Office of Congressman Bill Cassidy
Louisiana's Sixth District**

Phone: 202-225-3901

FAX: 202-225-7313

**1535 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

FROM: Congressman Cassidy



FAX

TO: The Honorable Julius Genachowski, FCC

ATTN:

FAX #: 202 418 2806

DATE: March 30, 2012

MESSAGE:

Please see enclosed letter. Thank you.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 26, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Rodney Alexander
U.S. House of Representatives
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Alexander:

Thank you for your letter regarding waiver requests filed by the City of Baton Rouge, the New Orleans Urban Area Security Initiative, and the State of Louisiana. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention and have directed the Chief of Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau to respond. I am pleased to provide the enclosed letter addressing your concerns.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In Reply Refer To:
1200439

July 26, 2012

The Honorable Rodney Alexander
United States Congress
316 Cannon House Office Building
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Dear Congressman Alexander:

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As you know, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (Spectrum Act), Public Law Number 112-96, reallocates additional 700 MHz spectrum for use by public safety and sets forth Congress's vision for a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network spearheaded by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) located within the Department of Commerce. It also sets forth a funding mechanism for this network.

The Spectrum Act requires that the Commission "facilitate" the transfer of the 700 MHz spectrum to FirstNet. On April 6, 2012, the Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau sought comment on how to accomplish this. Many commenters encouraged the Commission to continue to authorize early build out of state and local networks in this spectrum. Others, including the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), urged the Commission to terminate all existing waivers and decline to grant any additional waivers.

The Commission is evaluating all aspects of this complex issue, and is currently considering an Order that would address the Louisiana Petitions and the other pending waiver petitions for early deployment in this spectrum in light of the Spectrum Act's mandates.

I share your strong interest in ensuring public safety, and I appreciate that the State of Louisiana and its constituent jurisdictions are making this a priority. I am also committed to ensuring the success of FirstNet and carrying out the Commission's obligations under the Spectrum Act.

Sincerely,

David Turetsky
Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau



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JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boustany:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 26, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable John Fleming
U.S. House of Representatives
416 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fleming:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 26, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senate
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

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The Honorable Jeff Landry
U.S. House of Representatives
206 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Washington, D.C. 20515

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The Honorable Steve Scalise
U.S. House of Representatives
429 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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